

# the condition of education 2006



## INDICATOR 28

# Public High School Graduation Rates by State

The indicator and corresponding tables are taken directly from *The Condition of Education 2006*. Therefore, the page numbers may not be sequential.

Additional information about the survey data and supplementary notes can be found in the full report. For a copy of *The Condition of Education 2006*, visit the NCES website (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.sap?pubid=2006071>) or contact ED PUBs at 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

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# Elementary/Secondary Persistence and Progress

## Public High School Graduation Rates by State

The 2002–03 public high school graduation rate for the averaged freshman class 4 years earlier was 73.9 percent. The rate ranged from a low of 59.6 percent in the District of Columbia to a high of 87.0 percent in New Jersey.

This indicator examines the percentage of public high school students who graduate. To do so, it uses the *averaged freshman graduation rate*—a measure of the percentage of the incoming freshman class that graduates 4 years later. The averaged freshman enrollment count is the sum of the number of 8th-graders 5 years earlier, the number of 9th-graders 4 years earlier (because this is when current year seniors were freshmen), and the number of 10th-graders 3 years earlier divided by 3. The intent of this averaging is to account for the high rate of grade retention in the freshman year, which adds 9th-grade repeaters from the previous year to the number of students in the incoming freshman class each year.

Among all public high school students in the class of 2002–03, the averaged freshman graduation rate was 73.9 percent (see supplemental table 28-1). New Jersey had the highest graduation rate at 87.0 percent. Thirteen other

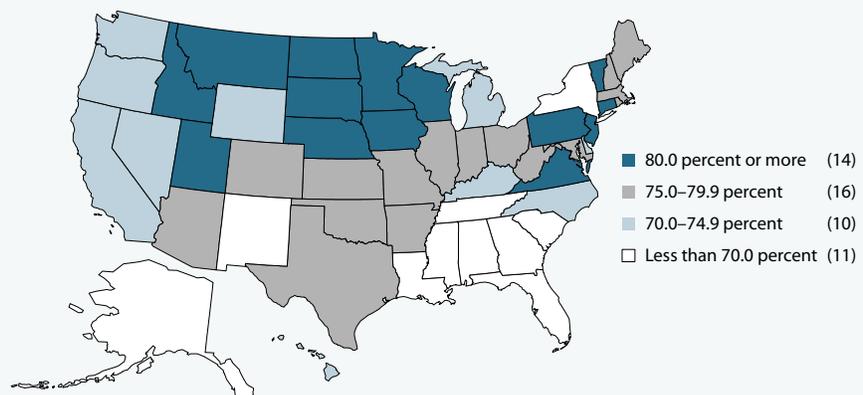
states had rates above 80 percent: North Dakota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Nebraska, Minnesota, Vermont, South Dakota, Pennsylvania, Idaho, Montana, Connecticut, Virginia, and Utah. The District of Columbia had the lowest graduation rate in 2002–03 at 59.6 percent. Ten states also had graduation rates below 70 percent, including Alaska, Florida, Alabama, Louisiana, Tennessee, New Mexico, Mississippi, New York, Georgia, and South Carolina.

The overall averaged freshman graduation rate among public school students increased from 71.7 percent for the class of 2000–01 to 73.9 percent for the class of 2002–03. Between the two years, there was an increase in the graduation rate in 43 states; 4 states had an increase of greater than 5 percentage points (South Dakota, Florida, Oregon, and Washington). The graduation rate decreased in 7 states and the District of Columbia, with the rate decreasing the most in Massachusetts (3.2 percentage points).

NOTE: The averaged freshman graduation rate is the number of graduates divided by the estimated count of freshmen 4 years earlier. The estimated count of freshmen is calculated by summing 10th-grade enrollment 2 years before the graduation year, 9th-grade enrollment 3 years before the graduation year, and 8th-grade enrollment 4 years before the graduation year and dividing this amount by 3. Enrollment counts include a proportional distribution of students not enrolled in a specific grade.

SOURCE: Seastrom, M., Hoffman, L., Chapman, C., and Stillwell, R. (2005). *The Averaged Freshman Graduation Rate for Public High Schools from the Common Core of Data: School Years 2001–02 and 2002–03* (NCES 2006-601), tables 2 and 3 and previously unpublished tabulation (September 2005). Data from U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD), "State Nonfiscal Data File: School Years 1996–97 through 2003–04."

**HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION: Averaged freshman graduation rate for public high school students, by state: 2002–03**



FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
 Supplemental Notes 3, 12  
 Supplemental Table 28-1  
 NCES 2006-062  
 NCES 2006-604  
 NCES 2006-605

## Public High School Graduation Rates by State

Table 28-1. Averaged freshman graduation rate for public high school students and number of graduates, by state: 2000–01, 2001–02, and 2002–03

State	2000–01		2001–02		2002–03	
	Averaged freshman graduation rate <sup>1</sup>	Total number of graduates <sup>2</sup>	Averaged freshman graduation rate <sup>1</sup>	Total number of graduates <sup>2</sup>	Averaged freshman graduation rate <sup>1</sup>	Total number of graduates <sup>2</sup>
<b>United States</b>	<b>71.7</b>	<b>2,569,200</b>	<b>72.6</b>	<b>2,621,534</b>	<b>73.9</b>	<b>2,719,947</b>
Alabama	63.7	37,082	62.1	35,887	64.7	36,741
Alaska	68.0	6,812	65.9	6,945	68.0	7,297
Arizona	74.2	46,733	74.7	47,175	75.9	49,986
Arkansas	73.9	27,100	74.8	26,984	76.6	27,555
California	71.6	315,189	72.7	325,895	74.1	341,097
Colorado	73.2	39,241	74.7	40,760	76.4	42,379
Connecticut	77.5	30,388	79.7	32,327	80.9	33,667
Delaware	71.0	6,614	69.5	6,482	73.0	6,817
District of Columbia	60.2	2,808	68.4	3,090	59.6	2,725
Florida	61.2	111,112	63.4	119,537	66.7	127,484
Georgia	58.7	62,499	61.1	65,983	60.8	66,890
Hawaii	68.3	10,102	72.1	10,452	71.3	10,013
Idaho	79.6	15,941	79.3	15,874	81.4	15,858
Illinois	75.6	110,624	77.1	116,657	75.9	117,507
Indiana	72.1	56,172	73.1	56,722	75.5	57,897
Iowa	82.8	33,774	84.1	33,789	85.3	34,860
Kansas	76.5	29,360	77.1	29,541	76.9	29,963
Kentucky	69.8	36,957	69.8	36,337	71.7	37,654
Louisiana	63.7	38,314	64.4	37,905	64.1	37,610
Maine	76.4	12,654	75.6	12,593	76.3	12,947
Maryland	78.7	49,222	79.7	50,881	79.2	51,864
Massachusetts	78.9	54,393	77.6	55,272	75.7	55,987
Michigan	75.4	96,515	72.9	95,001	74.0	100,301
Minnesota	83.6	56,581	83.9	57,440	84.8	59,432
Mississippi	59.7	23,748	61.2	23,740	62.7	23,810
Missouri	75.5	54,138	76.8	54,487	78.3	56,925
Montana	80.0	10,628	79.8	10,554	81.0	10,657
Nebraska	83.8	19,658	83.9	19,910	85.2	20,161
Nevada	70.0	15,127	71.9	16,270	72.3	16,378
New Hampshire	77.8	12,294	77.8	12,452	78.2	13,210
New Jersey	85.4	76,130	85.8	77,664	87.0	81,391
New Mexico	65.9	18,199	67.4	18,094	63.1	16,923
New York	61.5	141,884	60.5	140,139	60.9	143,818
North Carolina	66.5	63,288	68.2	65,955	70.1	69,696
North Dakota	85.4	8,445	85.0	8,114	86.4	8,169
Ohio	76.5	111,281	77.5	110,608	79.0	115,762
Oklahoma	75.8	37,458	76.0	36,852	76.0	36,694
Oregon	68.3	29,939	71.0	31,153	73.7	32,587
Pennsylvania	79.0	114,436	80.2	114,943	81.7	119,933
Rhode Island	73.5	8,603	75.7	9,006	77.7	9,318
South Carolina	56.5	30,026	57.9	31,302	59.7	32,482

See notes at end of table.

## Public High School Graduation Rates by State

**Table 28-1. Averaged freshman graduation rate for public high school students and number of graduates, by state: 2000–01, 2001–02, and 2002–03**  
—Continued

State	2000–01		2001–02		2002–03	
	Averaged freshman graduation rate <sup>1</sup>	Total number of graduates <sup>2</sup>	Averaged freshman graduation rate <sup>1</sup>	Total number of graduates <sup>2</sup>	Averaged freshman graduation rate <sup>1</sup>	Total number of graduates <sup>2</sup>
South Dakota	77.4	8,881	79.0	8,796	83.0	8,999
Tennessee	59.0	40,642	59.6	40,894	63.4	44,113
Texas	70.8	215,316	73.5	225,167	75.5	238,111
Utah	81.6	31,036	80.5	30,183	80.2	29,527
Vermont	80.2	6,856	82.0	7,083	83.6	6,970
Virginia	77.5	66,067	76.7	66,519	80.6	72,943
Washington	69.2	55,081	72.2	58,311	74.2	60,435
West Virginia	75.9	18,440	74.2	17,128	75.7	17,287
Wisconsin	83.3	59,341	84.8	60,575	85.8	63,272
Wyoming	73.4	6,071	74.4	6,106	73.9	5,845

<sup>1</sup> The rate is the number of graduates divided by the estimated count of freshmen 4 years earlier. The averaged freshman enrollment count is the sum of the number of 8th-graders 5 years earlier, the number of 9th-graders 4 years earlier (because this is when current year seniors were freshmen), and the number of 10th-graders 3 years earlier divided by 3. Enrollment counts include a proportional distribution of students not enrolled in a specific grade.

<sup>2</sup> Graduates include only those who earned regular diplomas as defined by the state or district.

SOURCE: Seastrom, M., Hoffman, L., Chapman, C., and Stillwell, R. (2005). *The Averaged Freshman Graduation Rate for Public High Schools from the Common Core of Data: School Years 2001–02 and 2002–03* (NCES 2006-601), tables 2 and 3 and previously unpublished tabulation (September 2005). Data from U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD), "State Nonfiscal Data File: School Years 1996–97 through 2003–04."